



Governor's Advisory Council to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Chapel – Herman M. Holloway, Sr. Campus
September 15, 2016 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jack Akester, Patricia Ayers, Anthony Brazen, Helena Carter, Andrea Guest, Thomas Hall, James Lafferty, Jim Martin, Susan Phillips
Members Excused: Patricia Hill, Janice Jolly, Devon Manning
Members Absent: Robert Daniels, John Evans, George Meldrum, Joanna Rieger
Associate Members Present: Lynn Fahey, Bruce Lorenz, John McKenna, Charles Sygowski
Associate Members Excused: Dan Hoefman
Associate Members Absent: Florence Alberque, Lisa Furber, James Lark, Edie McCole,
Interested Parties Present: Michael Barbieri, Elizabeth Booth, William Mason, Joshua Thomas-Acker, Barbara Bell

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to Order/Introductions	Chairman James Lafferty called the meeting to order at 9:10a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Meeting participants were invited to introduce themselves and share their affiliation.	
Review and Approval of Minutes		The meeting minutes from May and July were approved.
Chairman's Report	Chairman James Lafferty reminded everyone the election of 2017 Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) officers will be in November. James Lafferty and Jack Akester are retiring from the GAC. Bruce Lorenz and Lynn Fahey are collecting nominations.	

<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>Director Mike Barbieri reported that the Federal CORE review was satisfactory. There were no real issues to be addressed. A final report will be sent in a month. The biggest concern was capacity management i.e. are there adequate services to address the needs of the population to be served. The number of available psychiatrists makes the provision of services for substance abuse a little problematic.</p> <p>Director Barbieri reported 110 sober living beds are open and operational and there is a RFP out for 10 more beds. There is confidence that the sober living facility for women and children will be coming soon. NHS is no longer a provider in the state of Delaware for ACT teams. Connections took one of their teams as did Fellowship. Horizon House has two teams in southern Delaware. There is a significant waiting list for clients in New Castle County. DSAMH has contracted with a company called Legacy to provide those services needed in the northern part of the state.</p> <p>Director Barbieri stated that DPC has done a remarkable job of getting people back into the community. A RFP is being finalized for group homes. There is an issue with the SRAP program where in some cases background checks are being used to keep people from renting apartments.</p>	
<p>Standing Committee Reports:</p>		
<p>Children's Committee</p>	<p>Helena Carter reported the Children's Department is working on a program for children with developmental disabilities. She reported on the activities being done for Recovery month which is in September.</p>	
<p>Employment Committee</p>	<p>Andrea Guest reported that working with DSAMH on employment treatment plans is a very positive experience. Employment should be a necessity in an individual's treatment plan while on an ACT team. The continual change of providers present a challenge because all involved have to stop and start over again. There has been a change in the collection of data so the department is working on getting more specific employment data. Providers can help in this regard. It is a challenge to find people that have the particular job skill that fits with the position so the focus is now on Career Pathways. Matching a person to something they are interested in would help them to stay with the position. The Committee is expanding its</p>	

	area of working with youth with disabilities. The core group in a school setting is 14 -21 year olds	
Membership Committee	Jack Akester reported there are 16 full members and 9 associate members. One person has expressed an interest in joining and has been given the necessary paperwork.	
Community Services Committee	Jim Martin reported there was a big Code Purple effort last year and the Committee is gearing up for it again this season. People are being trained and there is going to be an increase of 200 slots. Seaford has its first three-quarter house and it is called Max House. The sober living house for women and children is progressing along well. Community organizations are working very hard to provide safety nets.	
DPC Advisory Committee	Jack Akester reported that DPC Advisory met yesterday and the main topic was the difficulty maintaining nursing staff. The information being gathered from nurses exit interviews is being evaluated. DPC Activity Center will be closing down in November 2016. This is part of the push to have people work in the communities. Another issue discussed was the challenges of handling clients with severe aggression. DPC is increasing training to staff to give more tools to promote personal safety. Aggressive individuals, low pay, and staffing shortages are issues that have been identified as stressful for the nurses.	
Old Business	CLASI and ACLU won a judgement against the Department of Correction regarding housing of individuals with serious mental illnesses in a secure housing unit. DOC is working to change the way they provide treatment to offenders who have mental illness.	
New Business	None	
Public Comment	None	
Meeting Adjourned	A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.	The committee approved the adjournment.